

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

After the foregoing Amendment, Claims 1-6 and 8-11 are currently pending in this application. Applicant requests that claims 7 and 12 be canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-6, 8-11 have been amended to more distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicants regard as the invention. Applicants submit that no new matter has been introduced into the application by these amendments.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner is thanked for indicating that claims 1-6, and 8-11 contain allowable subject matter.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1, 4-7 and 9-12 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention.

Claims 1, 5, 7 and 10 were rejected because the limitation "sequentially receiving the random values in parallel" was considered by the Examiner to be unclear as written. As amended in claims 1, 5 and 10, the rejected limitation is "sequentially receiving the random values from a respective one of N parallel inputs". These claims have been amended for clarity.

Claim 7 is canceled. Amended claim 8 incorporates claim 7, and a similar amendment is made to claim 8 to overcome the indefiniteness rejection.

Dependent claims 4, 6, 9 and 11 were rejected because the limitations "the sorter elements SE1 to SEN and the adder operate in parallel". These claims are amended to more clearly convey that the sorter elements and the adder operate in parallel to "simultaneously process one random value". As such it is respectfully submitted that dependent claims 4, 6, 9 and 11 are now sufficiently clear to be allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 3, and 5 are also amended for clarity and consistency by replacing the term "series" with "set" with respect to a "set of random values" that are processed by the insertion sorter circuit.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC §103(a)

Claim 7 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,504,919 to Lee (hereinafter "Lee"). Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of Admitted Prior Art (Background [0001] – [0004]).

Claims 7 and 12 have been canceled.

Claims 8-9 are amended to incorporate the base claim limitations, which the Examiner has found to be allowable.

Based on the arguments presented above, withdrawal of the 35 USC §112, Second Paragraph rejection of claims 1, 4-6 and 9-11 and the withdrawal of the 35 USC §103(a) rejection are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

If the Examiner believes that any additional minor formal matters need to be addressed in order to place this application in condition for allowance, or that a telephone interview will help to materially advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone at the Examiner's convenience.

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application, including claims 1-6 and 8-11, is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Buchert et al.

By


Anthony L. Venezia
Registration No. 48,382

Volpe and Koenig, P.C.
United Plaza, Suite 1600
30 South 17th Street
Philadelphia, PA 19103
Telephone: (215) 568-6400
Facsimile: (215) 568-6499

ALV/bbf
Enclosure